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12/29/88
NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AND ARMS CONTROL
2101 Constitution Avenue Washington, D.C. 20418

December 15, 1988

Dr. Frank Press, President
National Academy of Sciences
2101 Constitution Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20418

Dear Frank:

Thanks very much for the opportunity to brief the NAS Council on CISAC's past and present commitments and on future issues.

During the subsequent discussion Dr. Norton Zinder raised the issue about CISAC's involvement in arms control issues related to chemical warfare. CISAC has discussed chemical warfare both in its own meetings and with the Soviets in the past, and has kept informed on the status of the ongoing negotiations on the subject. Discussions of the issue of proliferation and the means of chemical warfare are on the agenda of the forthcoming meeting with the Soviets occupying a one-quarter day segment during the planned 3-day meeting in early May 1989.

It is difficult to judge the extent to which CISAC has adequately emphasized this important subject. It has neither been ignored, nor has it been given the overarching emphasis given to nuclear arms control. We are anticipating that with the shift from the bilateral to the multilateral fora of arms control discussions the subject will get increased emphasis.

We will place the question of the level of emphasis on CW arms control on the agenda of the next CISAC meeting in February 1989. We will keep you informed of CISAC's intent in dealing with that subject. I hope that you and I can further discuss the matter before any decision is taken to establish an NAS activity independent of CISAC to examine the CW issue.

With best regards,



Wolfgang K. H. Panofsky
Chairman

Dear Pief -

I do caution that a CW
Committee will spend most of its
time negotiating with the US Govt.,
not the Russians.



Dr. Joshua Lederberg
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